



The Lifestyle Block

Welcome to our newsletter! We hope you're keeping warm and dry now winter has arrived. Spring isn't far away, please read on for information about calf rearing, sheep drench and care of the older animal

Calf Disbudding

Cattle with horns can injure farm staff and other animals, sometimes seriously. Disbudding calves between the age of one to six weeks old protects people and animals from serious harm in the future. Disbudding and dehorning are painful so pain relief is essential.

When to disbud— Early disbudding is better for both the calf and the operator. The calves are easier to handle, there is less stress and minimal tissue damage as the horn bud is free-floating in the skin over the skull at this age. As the calf grows, the horn bud attaches to the skull, and a small horn forms. Dehorning after the horn attaches to the skull increases the chance of significant pain and infection, with calves also harder to handle.



Book with our vets for disbudding with sedation, local anaesthetic and long-acting pain relief. Other procedures can be done at the same visit - including removal of extra teats, vaccination, and checking navels for hernias and infection.

The F Word!

FACILITIES! If you have livestock on your lifestyle block - you need pens or stockyards. Stock handling facilities aren't something that belongs on the "would be nice to have" list, they're essential.

You need yards to deal with sick animals, drenching, ear tagging animals if they're going to move off your property... all the things that you can't do with an animal in the middle of a paddock. Even the lame or sick animals will suddenly 'recover' once they spot the vet in their overalls!

Many clients use their neighbours yards where possible. For sheep or goats even a couple of gates in one corner as a makeshift yard can contain them safely for inspection and routine procedures easily such as drenching and vaccination.



Diarrhoea in Calves

We now have the Witness Bovid 5 tests in clinic

Drop in a sample for fast detection of Bovine Rota, Corona, E.coli K99, Cryptosporidium, or Giardia antigen.

KEY ADVANTAGES

- Useful tool to identify pathogens contributing to calf diarrhoea
- Quick pathogen identification to allow for immediate treatment when required
- Identifies 5 of the major causes of calf diarrhoea when they are present at clinically relevant levels
- No cross reaction with other etiologic agents of calf diarrhoea
- Newborn calves are susceptible to neonatal calf diarrhoea especially during their first 3~4 weeks of life.
- Bacteria, viruses, and parasites, by attacking the lining of the calves intestine, give rise to diarrhoea. It is one of the major financial factors in bovine production. Once the calves intestinal tract is infected, it results in decreased absorption of essential nutrients from milk and leads to weight loss, dehydration, and death loss.



CARE!

Calf pellets and chicken feed that contain a coccidiostat (to prevent coccidiosis) is **toxic to dogs**

Calves that are scouring are losing body water, body salts and energy.

Whether the cause of the scours is infectious or nutritional the treatment is the same - replace the lost fluids and assist with maintaining the energy of the calf.

This is best done by giving oral electrolytes during the period of diarrhoea and recovery period.

Oral electrolytes themselves are lower in energy than milk, so milk feeding during the scouring period should be continued as much as possible. Milk should not be withheld for more than 24 hours.

DEHYDRATION SYMPTOMS AND LEVELS

| SKIN TENT TIME | EYEBALL SUNKENNESS | MUCOUS MEMBRANES | DEHYDRATION LEVEL | FLUID REQUIRED* |
|-----------------|---|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 1-4 seconds | None/slight | Moist | MILD 0-4% | 4.5-6.5 litres/day |
| 5-10 seconds | Slight separation between eyeball and orbit | Tacky | MODERATE 5-8% | 6.5-8.0 litres/day |
| 11-15 seconds | Up to 0.5 cm between eyeball and orbit | Tacky | SERIOUS 9-10% | 8.0-9.0 litres/day |
| Over 15 seconds | 0.5-1.0 cm gap between eyeball and orbit | Dry | SEVERE Over 11% | Over 9.0 litres/day |

RECOMMENDED ELECTROLYTE THERAPY PROTOCOLS FOR SCOURS

MILD SCOURS



MODERATE TO SEVERE SCOURS



Most scours are milk / feeding related—new type of milk, different mixing rate, temperature etc.

If the calf has a high temperature or blood in faeces it is likely caused by a bug, bring in a faecal sample or give us a call to organize a vet visit.

Calves with head tilts, swollen joints, respiratory issues, or conjunctivitis all require a visit by one of our vets.

Spring Supplies

THE ROLE OF TRACE ELEMENTS IN CALF IMMUNITY & SURVIVAL

The majority of death and disease in calves occurs in the first few weeks of life, so supplementation to prevent this needs to be rapidly absorbed and given as early as possible. Both international and local research suggests that supplementing calves in early life with MULTIMIN® can enhance immunity and increase survival rates.

In local trials of MULTIMIN® treated calves, sickness and death rates due to scours, navel infections or other diseases were halved within 3 days of injection

When and how to use MULTIMIN® in calves

In the trial, farmers injected calves on the first day they arrived in the shed, which easily fitted into their daily routine.

- ◆ Administered as a subcutaneous injection.
- ◆ Nil meat and milk withholding periods.
- UP TO 1 YEAR OLD: 1 ml/50 kg, Use at birth and at weaning



Drench Plan for Sheep - Weaning through to adult




Lambs - Weaning

Corporal + Tape

Double combo oral - Use at weaning when tapeworm immunity is low.

Decanted into smaller sizes - 100 & 200ml




Lambs - Monthly Boss Sheep

Triple combo oral - Use as a monthly drench for older lambs. Don't use in lambs under 6weeks/15kg.

Adult Sheep Boss Sheep

Triple combo oral - great all round wormer for internal parasites.




Injectable for Barbers Pole

Dectomax

Single Active Injectable - 21 day cover, also covers most internal parasites.

OR



Injectable for Barbers Pole

Marathon LA

Single Active Injectable - Long acting, prevents reinfection for 91 days but has a long meat with hold.



Oral for Barbers Pole

Marathon Se

Single Active Oral with selenium - Short acting (35 days cover, 10 day WHP)

Only available in 20L

Care for Older Animals

Stiff joints, teeth problems, loss of strength and energy - this may sound familiar! We're not the only species to experience degenerative changes as we get older. Older animals have the same sort of problems.

When animals have given us hours of pleasure during their lifetime, we owe it to them to make their last few years as comfortable as possible, even when they have outlived their usefulness...whether they've been family dogs, working dogs, house cows, riding horse or just paddock mates!

Stiffness

Stiffness is often caused by degenerative changes in and around the joints.

In any species, some mild stiffness can improve with regular mild exercise such as a steady walk each day. It certainly helps if the animal isn't fat as excess weight puts more stress on the joints.

In cold wet weather, stiff horses maybe more comfortable by keeping them warm with a good waterproof cover. The cover should be checked daily. Access to effective shelter from bad weather may also help

With persistent or severe stiffness or lameness, it is wise to get veterinary advice on what treatments could provide some relief. As with us, there are anti-inflammatories and nutritional supplements that can help.

Teeth

In older animals, worn-down, loose or missing teeth can make grazing difficult. The signs include excess salivation (drooling) or dropping food from the mouth. Eventually, teeth problems lead to weight loss because the animal can't bite or chew effectively.

Sharp edges (on the outside of the top cheek teeth and the inside of the bottom cheek teeth) are very common in older horses and can cause ulcers inside the cheeks and on the edges of the tongue. As a guideline, older horses benefit from dental treatment every year to eighteen months. This improves their bite and chewing efficiency by rasping and levelling sharp edges and uneven surfaces on cheek teeth and incisors.

Weight loss

Weight loss is common in old animals, and while it might be inevitable with advancing years, there are contributing factors that can be treated.

Older animals are more susceptible to worms than their younger more robust paddock-mates. They will benefit from strategic treatments with anthelmintics and management changes.

Feet

As livestock get older they become less active and overgrowth of the horn on their feet can become a problem. Most farm animals need regular foot trimming or rasping, particularly as they get older. Keep an eye on their feet, and trim or have the feet trimmed before overgrowth results in splitting or breaking of the hoof (in horses) or curling under and distortion of the digits (in ruminants).

The bottom line

Taking extra good care of your older animals will ensure they can enjoy a few more years of quality life on your farm. But eventually and inevitably the time comes to consider euthanasia. This is the last act of kindness we can do for our animals.



We have our new farm email you can now send in orders or ask any questions you may have – farm@tcvet.co.nz